AIR MINISTRY APPOINTMENTS

The Right Honourable Viscount Swinton, G.B.E., M.C., Secretary of State for Air, has appointed Mr. F. H. Sandford to be his Principal Private Secretary in succession to Mr. P. J. Oldfield (promoted) and Mr. R. C. Chilver to be his Assistant Private Secretary, vice Mr. Sandford, with effect from January 17, 1937.

The Air Ministry announces the following changes in the higher civilian staff:—

Mr. L. V. Meadowcroft to be Principal Assistant Secretary and Director of Contracts vice Mr. B. E. Holloway, C.B., who retires on January 16.

Mr. J. B. Abraham, C.B., to be Principal Assistant Secretary vice Mr. C. R. Brigstocke, C.B., who retired on December 31.

ELECTRICAL AND WIRELESS SCHOOL

The following are extracts from the report by the Officer Commanding, Electrical and Wireless School, Cranwell, on the Passing Out Inspection, December 22, 1936. The inspection was carried out by Air Vice-Marshal E. L. Gossage, D.S.O., M.C.

The strength of the entry now passing out is fifty-seven, of whom thirty-nine entered by Air Ministry Competitive Examination and eighteen by direct entry with School Leaving or Matriculation Certificates. Forty-eight of these apprentices have been trained as wireless operator mechanics and the remaining nine as instrument makers. The average age of this entry is eighteen and a half years. The total strength of apprentices on December 1, 1936, was seven hundred and twenty-four.

The results obtained by the forty-eight Wireless Operator Mechanics aircraft apprentices are: Twenty have passed out as Aircraftmen 1st Class; twenty-four have passed out as Aircraftmen 2nd Class. The remaining four have failed to qualify, and of these, two have been recommended for a further period of training, whilst the others have been recommended for remustering to Wireless Operator, Group II.

The results obtained by the nine Instrument Maker aircraft apprentices qualify them to pass out as follows:—One as Leading Aircraftman; four as Aircraftmen 1st Class; four as Aircraftmen 2nd Class.

Award of Cadetships

The following apprentices have each been awarded cadetships at the Royal Air Force College:—Sergt. Apprentices J. A. Holmes and G. Robertson.

The Hyde-Thomson Memorial Prize has been awarded to Sergt. Apprentice J. A. Holmes.

A NEW BOMBING RANGE

A high-altitude practice bombing range has been constructed at Berners Heath, Suffolk, and became available, with bye-laws, for general use as from December 15, 1936. The range is administered by the C.O., R.A.F. Station, Mildenhall.

No. 9 FLYING TRAINING SCHOOL

The undermentioned officer and airmen have been awarded the special assessment shown hereunder, on completion of a course of flying training at No. 9 Flying Training School, Thornaby:—

Distinguished Pass

A.P/O. L. S. Dawson, Cpls. Boxall, C. T., and Knott, R. H., A./Sgts. Kime, L. G., Shipman, E. A., and Sumner, F.

CADETS FROM AUSTRALIA

In the issue of *Flight* of November 5 last a statement was published to the effect that "in future fifty cadets are to be sent from Australia annually." This should have read that the number has been increased from fifteen to fifty for the year 1937 only, after which the number will revert to the region of the original figure.

ADVANCED ENGINEERING COURSE

The undermentioned officer, having successfully completed the advanced engineering course at Cambridge University in June, 1936, obtaining the degree indicated, is awarded the symbol E*: Flt. Lt. F. Whittle, B.A. (1st class Mechanical Sciences Tripos).

FLYING ACCIDENTS

The Air Ministry regrets to announce that Sgt. Stanley James Ower lost his life, and Corpl. Brean Thomas Alfred Hobbs was slightly injured, in an accident which occurred near Brackley, Northamptonshire, on December 30, to an aircraft of No. 18 (Bomber) Squadron, Upper Heyford. Sgt. Ower was the pilot of the aircraft and Corpl. Hobbs the passenger.

Also that L.A/C. Frank William Barrett lost his life, and Sgt. Norman Pickard was injured, as the result of an accident which occurred at North Tidworth on January 1, to an aircraft of No. 6 Flying Training School, Netheravon. Sgt. Pickard was the pilot of the aircraft and L.A/C. Barrett the passenger.

ROYAL AIR FORCE GAZETTE

London Gazette, December 29, 1936

General Duties Branch

Flt. Lt. R. Sorel-Cameron is granted a permanent commission in that rank (December 9).

The following Flight Lieutenants are granted permanent commissions in that rank (December 28):—R. C. M. Collard, W. P. Harvey, E. V. Knowles, G. P. Woodhouse.

The following Pilot Officers are promoted to the rank of Flying Officer on the dates stated:—E. K. Piercy (October 3); J. D. C. Joslin (October 16).

F/O. T. G. Young is placed on the half-pay list, Scale B (December 23).

The following Flight Lieutenants are transferred to the reserve, Class A, on the dates stated:—J. R. Talbot (December 28); G. Hinckley (December 29).

Flt. Lt. F. W. Murison (Lt., Royal Artillery, T.A. Reserve of Officers) is transferred to the reserve, Class C (December 6); Acting Pilot Officer on probation P. A. B. Neel relinquishes his short-service commission on account of ill-health (December 28).

Medical Branch

The following Flying Officers are promoted to the rank of Flight Lieutenant with effect from December 2, and with seniority of the dates stated:—L. M. Crooks, M.B., Ch.B., C. F. R. Briggs, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. (December 2, 1935) W. J. Fowler, L.M.S., M.D. (December 6, 1935).

Dental Branch

The following Flying Officers are promoted to the rank of Flight Lieutenant on the dates stated:—R. M. Brown, L.D.S. (December 2, seniority October 5, 1936); W. E. Nelson, L.D.S. (December 2).

ROYAL AIR FORCE RESERVE

Reserve of Air Force Officers

General Duties Branch

The following are granted commissions as Pilot Officers in Class AA (December 29):—A. J. MacK. Chadwick, A. D. Frank, P. H. G. Newhouse, T. H. Roberts.

F/O. F. R. Newell relinquishes his commission on appointment to a commission in the Royal New Zealand Air Force (June 1).

AUXILIARY AIR FORCE

General Duties Branch

No. 601 (COUNTY OF LONDON) (FIGHTER) SQUADRON.—P/O. J. G. Grace resigns his commission (June 8).

No. 602 (CITY OF GLASGOW) (BOMBER) SQUADRON.—A. A. McKellar is granted a commission as Pilot Officer (November 8).

AUXILIARY AIR FORCE RESERVE OF OFFICERS

General Duties Branch

J. G. Grace is granted a commission as Pilot Officer in Class C (June 8).

ROYAL AIR FORCE INTELLIGENCE

Appointments.—The following appointments in the Royal Air Force are notified:—

General Duties Branch

Squadron Leader.—C. F. Sealy, to Special Duty List; whilst employed on Armament duties with Superintendent of Design at the Royal Arsenal, Woolwich, 15.12.36.

Flight Lieutenants.—W. N. McKenchnie, E.G.M., to R.A.F. Station, Cranwell, 6.12.36. J. A. Dixon, to No. 269 (General Reconnaissance) Squadron, Bircham Newton, 7.12.36.

Pilot Officers.—B. Bell, T. M. Lockyer, P. M. Astley, to No. 269 (General Reconnaissance) Squadron, Bircham Newton, 7.12.36.

Acting Pilot Officer.—R. H. Warcup, to No. 269 (General Reconnaissance) Squadron, Bircham Newton, 7.12.36.

Equipment Branch

Flying Officers.—F. Gale, to R.A.F. Station, Cranwell, 16.12.36. C. H. V. Harding, to No. 1 M.T. Storage Unit, Hendon, 16.12.36. G. Jones, to No. 1 Stores Depot, Kidbrooke, 16.12.36. C. E. Lindsell, to R.A.F. Station, Cardington, 16.12.36. L. Mitchell, to No. 4 Stores Depot, Ruislip, 16.12.36.

Pilot Officers.—F. G. Carle, to R.A.F. Station, Donibristle, 16.12.36. F. B. King, to R.A.F. Station, Manston, 16.12.36.

Medical Branch

Flying Officers.—D. W. I. Thomas, R. F. Courtin, D. J. Dawson, to Princess Mary's R.A.F. Hospital, Halton, 17.12.36. P. A. Lee, to Home Aircraft Depot, Henlow, 17.12.36. A. R. Sibbald, to No. 5 Flying Training School, Sealand, 17.12.36. R. H. Pratt, E. W. R. Fairley, to R.A.F. Hospital, Cranwell, 17.12.36. J. Conroy, to No. 7 Flying Training School, Peterborough, 17.12.36. N. P. R. Clyde, to No. 1 Flying Training School, Leuchars, 17.12.36. C. E. G. Wickham, to R.A.F. Station, Manston, 17.12.36.

Accountant Branch

Flying Officer.—D. Lumgair, to R.A.F. Station, Wyton, 16.12.36.